

Barham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2017

Present: Parish Councillors David Wood (Chairman), David Tamsitt (Vice Chairman), Stephanie Hollowday, Ernie Mullett, John Brooks, Patti Earl and Susie Duke.
Canterbury City Cllr Simon Cook for part of the meeting only.
Three residents. Clerk to the Council, Amanda Sparkes

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Parish Cllr Liz Minter (annual leave), Parish Cllr Sarah Goulden (leave), and Kent County Cllr Michael Northey. There were no Declarations of Interests.

2. The Minutes of the last full parish council meeting held 02 November 2017 were approved and accepted as a true record and the Chairman signed them.

In relation to that, NOTED an email to from Rev Stefan Thomas to record gratitude on behalf of St John the Baptist Church and its PCC for the parish council donation of £1,000 towards the renewal of the footpath through the church yard.

3. The Minutes of the F&GP meeting held on 22 November 2017 were also approved and the Chairman signed them. (Recommendations for resolutions were included now included on the 07 December 2017 full parish council meeting agenda and the resulting decisions contained within these Minutes).

4. The meeting was adjourned for parishioners' questions and comments. NOTED that a further letter from a resident present had been circulated to all parish councillors prior to the meeting – about the need for social and affordable housing in the village and a reminder to the parish council to keep the need for a rural exception site on their ongoing agenda. The resident advised that the housing waiting list at CCC has gone up to 2,800 people. He drew attention to the very good exception site example at Bridge. He suggested that two speakers could address the parish council, namely Tessa O'Sullivan the Rural Kent housing enabler and Mr James Duff, assistant manager at Catching Lives. He commented that homelessness and housing need are not just confined to urban areas.
The Clerk said she would contact the rural housing enabler for the latest situation regarding the impact of the right to buy legislation. Cllr Wood explained that he had met with Rosie Duffield MP and she had agreed to take the matter up also after doing her own research. The Clerk was asked to add the item of Rural Housing to the February 2018 parish council meeting, to try and progress this item in some way.
The meeting continued.

5. Kent County Councillor KCC Cllr Michael Northey report

Cllr Northey sent apologies but also the following report, circulated after the meeting:

- "I'll be coming to Barham a week on Saturday morning, to the Barham pre-school Christmas event. I was able to give them a grant of £1,500 a few weeks ago, for new wooden furniture, and this has been a great help to this excellent group.
- The winter gritting programme has been under way for some time now, and the crews have been out on several occasions. For this winter 17/18, £3,328,600 has been allocated i.e. £1,277,071 for 66 primary precautionary routes and the other amount for such items as plant, equipment, salt, new salt bins, bespoke weather forecast. There is always a duty manager on duty at all times. Last year, there were 52 runs and that was an average winter, with December and January being the coldest months. There will be adequate stocks for this season.
- KCC, along with the government, is keen to promote apprenticeships. More than 3,700 young people have registered their details on the special website, but employers have listed just 1,287 apprenticeship places as available. We are running the 1,000 Interviews project which aims to get that number of young people some interview practice, and to get 500 young people in work as a result of the interview day. National and local figures are down on last year for apprenticeship places, and anything the parish council can do to encourage more places is welcome."

6. City Cllr, Cllr Simon Cook report

Cllr Cook advised that Canterbury City Council has its budget out to public consultation. There are no noticeable changes to front line services. He confirmed that the government has brought forward a note about littering, for possible new regulations to take effect from April 2018, whereby the fixed penalty notice fine may rise from £80 to £150. And for littering out of vehicles, where previously a ticket could only be

issued if the name of the person was known, a change could be that the fine becomes the responsibility of the owner of the vehicle – and the offence could also be enforceable by camera – so CCC could consider their covert cameras in hotspot locations. He confirmed also that a European Agency can now fine continental drivers and firms.

Cllr Earl questioned about refuse collections resulting in further street litter and rubbish. Cllr Cook confirmed that the operatives do have brooms, but high winds can cause problems, although this should not happen systematically. Cllr Cook advised people to report problems and with photographs if appropriate, for it to be cleared up.

He wished everyone a happy Christmas and New Year and left the meeting at this point for another engagement.

7. PCSO report - The PCSO report had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. There had been a recent 'suspect event' in Barham.

8. Finance

The cheque payments totalling £1,505.76 were authorised for payment.

NOTED that the direct debit payment for the next instalment of the public work loan of £2,791.04 due on 31 December 2017 will be taken by direct debit on 2 January 2018.

RECEIVED the bank reconciliation and bank statements for October and November 2017 and RESOLVED the signature of a councillor other than the Chairman thereon.

NOTED that the Clerk will now cash the £500 cheque for the sale of the old Bell Cottage Phone Box (this is to be added to the Social Fund in the accounts)

Concurrent Function Monitoring for 2016-2017

NOTED on 15 November 2017, the Clerk dealt with the relevant CCC Officer with regard to documents that need to be returned to Canterbury City Council for CFF Funding, as per schedule 2 of the CFF Funding Agreement. Spend on CFF in 2016-2017 was £11,548.95 excluding VAT - The award in 2016-2017 was £8,799.05 so there is no underspend. The Clerk sent copies of the Accounts; CFF itemised spent; Copies of the parish council's Insurance schedule and PLI Certificate; and copies of the Inspection Reports for both the Valley Road and Brickfield Recreation ground play areas.

Capital grant - Evidence of spend for Barham Parish Council capital grant in 2017-2018

NOTED that on 15 November 2017 the Clerk sent copies of invoices as evidence of spend against the CCC Capital award for Barham this year: A CIFT grant of £3,683.70 was awarded in 2017-2018 for street lighting upgrades. BPC paid (on cheque dated 1 August 2017) a total of £12,040.56 (so more than the grant plus own required contribution).

Update on CIFT capital grant application to CCC for 2018-2019

On 10 November 2017, RAMP recommended that the capital grant application from Barham, of £5,003 for 49% of the total costs of a new outdoor multi-play unit, be fully funded. So the parish council should receive a capital grant of £5,003 in April 2018 to enable the new provision to be progressed then.

Bus shelters and raised kerb works for bus stops on Derringstone Hill

Cllr Hollowday proposed, Cllr Duke seconded and all councillors were in agreement that the parish council should proceed with two bus shelters and raised kerb works where necessary to make the stops DDA compliant, at the stops opposite each other by the junction of Mill Lane and Derringstone Hill. There is an offer from CCC to both pay for one side and one shelter up to £5,000, and pick up future maintenance and insurance costs of both shelters. The parish council contribution for the 'easier' side is £3,500. This project will proceed with costs to be met from unrestricted reserves in the current financial year, rather than burden the 2018-2019 new precept year. The bus shelters are to have slim silver fittings, with all clear panels and a perch style seat. The Clerk will speak to the relevant officers to progress these.

Improvements for Brickfield Recreation ground

In the first instance, new fencing is needed – the F&GP committee recommendation was for this to be funded partly through unrestricted reserves and partly through new precept provision. Cllr Hollowday proposed and Cllr Mullett seconded and all councillors were in agreement that the new fencing should be provided and paid for in April 2018. The Clerk will speak to the fencing contractor.

Precept budget for 2018-2019

The parish council debated their budget requirement at the F&GP meeting held on 22 November 2017. Last year's precept was £36,312. The recommendation from the F&GP meeting held on 22 November 2017 *is to raise the precept by no more than 1.99% on last year's*. Cllr Wood cautioned that this is a one-year decision. Cllr Tamsitt proposed, Cllr Brooks seconded and all councillors were happy that this be the case, and the Clerk will advise CCC of the requirement of (up to) £37,034 (to be finalised with CCC once the tax base is finalised and the desire by CCC for the figure to be divisible exactly by '9' is calculable.)

9. Publicity & Communications including website

The Village Survey Action Plans – updated action plans for the Village and the one for Children and young people, and a "Completed/Achieved/Abandoned" list have been uploaded to the parish council website.

For the removal of the Bell Cottage phone box – The residents buying the box tried to proceed with its removal but found there is still a power supply connected to it. The Clerk dealt with BT to get this capped off which may take up to 24 weeks to be done.

For the Facebook page for Barham parish council – Cllr Hollowday advised things have been quiet.

10. First Aid demonstration session for residents

The resident Community First Responder in the village is prepared to run an uncertified first aid session for up to 12 people free of charge, to cover basic first aid including resuscitation techniques.

Cllr Wood advised that 15 people are interested and a date for one or two sessions will be set up in the New Year.

11. Possible setting up of a football team/football training

An informal meeting was held in Barham village hall on 15 November 2017. Cllrs Wood, Hollowday, Mullett, Earl and Minter attended, plus the Clerk, and four members of the public and some children and young people. Resident Tony Julian, who is keen to get football established in the village, confirmed that there is no sustainability at present from adult helpers but interest from young people to train. After discussion, it was agreed that the village green be used for informal training. Mr Julian will advertise with a flyer in the shop, noticeboard, Facebook and parish magazine for children aged from 6 years old (both boys and girls) to attend informal training sessions on Sunday mornings. Mr Julian felt that no financial outlay was necessary at this stage until firm interest and commitment is known. There may be a need for grants, and affiliation etc at a later date, and a change of venue too for league matches to be played. Cllr Mullett agreed to get the village green rolled and ready for informal sessions to begin. Three "taster" sessions were planned, starting on Sunday 26th November at 12:30. The first football session apparently involved 27 kids and several adults, with the session broken into two age groups. Mr Julian will report back to the parish council with progress report(s) in due course.

This will be an item on the February 2018 parish council meeting to receive an update.

12. Christmas trees and Christmas lights 2017

Mr Clough is providing the usual three Christmas trees in the village – at the village green, Derringstone Green, and the Village Hall. Cllr Wood advised that these should be put up this week. Cllr Hollowday and Cllr Duke have kindly offered to string the lights in the trees.

At the November 2017 parish council meeting, Cllr Minter had suggested that the Chairman of the Men of Trees could perhaps provide a permanent tree on the village green as a Christmas tree? This item was deferred as both Cllr Minter and Cllr Goulden were not present to take part in the discussion. Cllr Wood commented that a member of the public had commented to him that if this idea goes ahead it is important to get the correct species and one that will not cause height size and cutting back problems in future.

13. Highways

Badger warning signs

There has been a request for Highways 'Badger Warning' signs on Green Hills by Horse Head Farm, following a series of incidents where badgers are being hit by drivers, not always fatally. The Clerk contacted the Kent Highways manager and there is no generic badger sign in the highways manual but some could be made up. Signs would be around £40 each and could be attached off the highways on a

resident's fence post for ease. Cllr Hollowday proposed, Cllr Duke seconded and all councillors indicated they were happy to have four signs made up. Wording to be finalised with Kent Highways – Cllrs felt that ideally a badger face could be put on them?

Streetlighting

NOTED that on 21 November 2017, the Clerk sent the contractor the latest EDF energy bill for him to update to coding spreadsheet for the street lighting stock and to liaise with EDF on the parish council behalf for a better unmetered supply rate.

At the F&GP meeting of 22 November 2017, options for maintenance and the choice of whether to implement a dimming and central management system going forward were discussed. Cllrs felt that there are further improvements to achieve greater energy savings through controllable dimming through a central management system.

Cllr Brooks proposed, Cllr Earl seconded and all councillors indicated they were in agreement for Option 4: New dimmers paid for under 5 year agreement (and with the dimmer nodes 'owned' at the end of the 5 year agreement) and with all ongoing maintenance and repairs included at a cost of £2.06 per column per month equally £1,236 p.a. for 5 years (to be invoiced and paid for monthly). The contractor has confirmed that any teething problems with a central management system would be covered in the price, and that the dimmers should enable a further 10-15% of energy savings.

The Clerk will speak to the contractor to install the dimmers and CMS system now.

Cllrs discussed what to do when the dimming option may be available – and felt that a blanket trial of dimming should be implemented, with residents' feedback on this trial to be welcomed. The February 2018 parish council meeting will have a resolution to do this.

Wooden tubs at top of Derrington Hill - The two tubs on Derrington Hill have now been moved to the Fox Way/The Grove junctions. The ones at Derrington Hill will be replaced with reduced height tubs next.

Speedwatch – Cllr Wood advised that recent checks are recording 15-30 drivers per hour exceeding 36mph by The Shrubbery. When Derrington Hill is clear of roadworks the speedchecks will be done here too. Cllr Wood confirmed that he had asked the Community Speedwatch Manager if side streets in the village may also be added as agreed locations, but these do not meet the criteria.

Cllr Wood reminded everyone that speedwatch is not run by Barham Parish Council – the parish council gave a grant for 50% of the costs of the equipment but the scheme is run by volunteers, and endorsed by Kent Police.

The Clerk will give speedwatch statistics to Cllr Hollowday going forward for Cllr Hollowday to post the results on Facebook.

12. Open Spaces

Volunteer working party re minor actions from annual play area inspections reports

The annual play area inspections have some items that won't need a contractor such as cleaning of seats and uprights on equipment and staining of gates. At the September 2017 meeting Cllrs felt 6-8 residents may be invited to get involved in a working party (this must be booked through the Clerk.) The best time for a working party would be spring 2018. C/fwd: Cllr Wood and Cllr Hollowday to organise this, and set a date and advertising for it.

Allotments at Brickfield Recreation Ground

(There is planning approval on CA/16/01292/FUL and Barham Allotments Association (BAA) signed a seven year tenancy agreement from November 2016.)

At the November 2017 parish council, to combat recent thefts, the parish council resolved to permit a new hedge on the outside perimeter with a separate written agreement alongside the lease document to state that BAA will be responsible for it and only for the time that the area is an allotment garden/for the length of their tenancy. There may also be clauses around the height, the responsibility regime and a sheep guard requirement. The Clerk has advised the BAA Chairman and explained written confirmation will follow. C/fwd: The Clerk and Cllr Goulden will deal with the wording of this agreement.

Electricity supply at village green

C/fwd – The Clerk and Chairman to get a power provider to make the final connection to the new cabinet.

Sandbag store

The base is ready for a sand bag box by the new cabinet. The Clerk has placed an order for storage box with CCC.

New bins at village green

The two new bins at the village green are now installed. Cllr Wood advised that he had received several favourable comments about them.

Old cricket field trees: The Men of Trees are giving Barham Parish Council 40 new trees for the cricket field. Several old trees have now been cleared, with more still to come down. Cllr Wood advised the Men of Trees will bring the first tranche of trees for planting week commencing 18 December – for along the Rabbit Hole side and a Lime tree for behind the old cricket pavilion as a feature tree.

The second batch for planting will be finalised for a later date – for the line at the back of the cricket field.

13. Footpaths & Rights of Way

At the November parish council meeting, Cllr Minter raised concern about an overgrown section of footpath that is the only safe route to Out Elmstead. The Clerk explained a date had been set to meet to pick this item up with her, but cancelled. The Clerk, Cllr Minter and also Cllr Hollowday will now arrange to meet and see what can be done or if the report to the KCC public right of way department can have its status checked. And to try and push again for the stiles to change to gates.

Cllr Brooks advised he has put in a request to the Ramblers for taking a look at changing the stile to a kissing gate.

14. External Organisations

Royal British Legion – poppies and other goods for marking the centenary of WW1 end in 2018

There is an opportunity for poppies and other Royal British Legion commemorative items and ideas to show in the village, subject to volunteers' support, to help mark the 2018 commemoration of the end of WWI. The Royal British Legion have a contact in Elham who would be delighted to supply poppies and related goods that the Parish Council may wish to use, either for the 2018 commemoration or at any other time of year. Similarly, if there are local societies or clubs who'd like anything, they may also wish to have some stock. One item to consider is the large display poppies that have been put up in Elham recently – subject to volunteers helping to put them up on streetlights and taking them down again.

In Elham there are a number of ladies knitting poppies to create a display of falling poppies attached to a net which will go from the top of the church tower to the ground. A temporary display of a similar nature could be placed on the grassland adjacent to the main road in Barham?

Barham Parish Council will revisit this item at the February 2018 parish council meeting, and advertise in the parish magazine and on Facebook in due course.

Swingboats – The swingboats are owned by the parish council and on long term loan to the PTA. The Chairman and Clerk attended a public meeting held in the village hall on 16 November 2017 to discuss their future use. The PTA are experiencing issues around insurance and inspections linked to insurance. They were given some leads to follow up and it was a positive meeting. NOTED that at this stage there are no implications, financial or otherwise, for Barham Parish Council. The Clerk will followup with the PTA contact in January 2018.

15. Clerk report – the Clerk report had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Most items are incorporated elsewhere in the Minutes.

Clerk at Coffee Stop - The Clerk usually attends a Coffee Stop on the third/fourth Tuesday of each month between 10.30 and 11.30. The Chairman is usually at each session too to take enquiries also.

16. Planning Matters

CA/17/02393 - Land adjacent to Southease, Derrington Hill, Barham, CT4 6QD
Proposed detached two-storey dwelling and garage.
The parish council had no comments

CA/17/02538 and CA/17/02542/LB - Derrington Hill Farm, Derrington Hill, Barham, CT4 6QD
Proposed two-storey side extension.

CA/17/02526 - Blandford, Valley Road, Barham, CT4 6NX
Proposed roof extension from hipped to gable and associated alterations.

CA/17/02578 - The Lodge Gate, Church Lane, Barham, CT4 6QS
Proposed single-storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory.
(Cllr Wood and Cllr Minter have declared an interest in this application site.)

CA/17/02747 - Old Dairy House, Rectory Lane, Barham, CT4 6PD
Application for listed building consent to change the front porch window from a single light to a two light window.
Comments must arrive on or before **12 January 2018**.
View and comment on applications online at <https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/planningsearch>

Notifications

CA/17/02165 - Leanda, Valley Road, Barham, CT4 6NX
Proposed rear dormer and 4 no. rooflights to front. GRANTED

CA/17/02240 - Sydney House, Derringstone Hill, Barham
Variation of conditions 01 (approved drawings) and 02 (materials) of planning permission CA/17/01507/VAR for the erection of three detached dwellings in the grounds of Sydney House, Barham; *to allow glass link between main dwelling and outbuilding and amendment of external materials on plot B*. GRANTED

CA/17/02321- Riverside Cottage, Valley Road, Barham, CT4 6NX
Proposed formation of vehicular access to Valley Road. REFUSED by CCC

CA/17/02322 - Riverside Cottage, Valley Road, Barham, CT4 6NX
Listed building consent for proposed hardstanding to front following removal of boundary wall. REFUSED by CCC

CA/17/02327 - Riverside Cottage, Valley Road, Barham, CT4 6NX
Listed building consent for proposed replacement windows from single-glazed to double-glazed. REFUSED by CCC

TO NOTE: A neighbouring planning application for a Skate Park at Aylesham (DOV/17/00920 - Land between Burgess Road and Ackholt Road, Burgess Road, Aylesham, CT3 3AS: Change of use of land to Park, and installation of outdoor gym, associated fencing and lighting and creation of bund) - GRANTED

AWAITING FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF DECISION: CA/17/00809 - Arter Brothers, Eagle Motor Works, Old Dover Road, Barham, CT4 6EX: Proposed 10 two-storey dwellings following demolition of existing commercial buildings

Other Planning matters:

Highland Court at Bridge emerging development proposal

At the 2 November 2017 parish council meeting, Barham Parish Council agreed to carry a watching brief and support other parishes should a formal application be submitted. Whilst not in Barham parish it is in the Kent Downs area and, subject to the detail of any forthcoming application, Barham Parish Council will resist any significant development within the AONB as a matter of principle. (After the November meeting the Clerk emailed the Clerks of Bekesbourne and Bridge with this holding view of Barham Parish Council.)

Cllr Earl and Cllr Wood were aware of a recent application in the Dover district granted by Dover District Council to build on an AONB area, that was overturned by a Court of Appeal and also in the Supreme Court.

A second meeting has been held for local representatives in Bridge, on 23 November 2017 – Cllrs Wood, Earl and Brooks attended. The local Action Group are now being approached for funds for possible QC legal representation.

17. Councillors' items

Cllr Brooks endorsed Rev Thomas' thanks for the donation towards the Church path improvements.

Cllr Tamsitt explained that resident David Kincaid had given an update re the request to BT for broadband fibre supply improvements. David Kincaid has completed an enquiry form to BT with 25 residents expressing interest. BT will respond with costs and a timescale in due course. Barham Parish Council may write to BT to endorse this request.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm. Cllr Wood wished everyone a merry Christmas and Happy New Year and a reminder that there is no meeting in January – the next meeting being 1 February 2018.

Future meetings: Full Council: in the Grabham Room in the village hall. First Thursday of each month – except recesses in January, March and August: 1 February, 5 April, 3 May, 7 June, 5 July, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November and 6 December 2018. (and F&GP dates *if required*: Usually 3rd Monday of each month: in the committee room - 18 December 2017, 15 January, 19 February, 26 March, 16 April, 21 May, 18 June, 16 July, 20 August, 17 September, 15 October, 19 November and 17 December 2018.)

Signed..... Chairman, Barham Parish Council

Date

Please note these Minutes remain as draft Minutes until they are approved by the parish council at their next parish council meeting

Extra Clerk reports items circulated this month to note:

River Group update

On 3 November 2017, the Secretary of the River group chased the Environment Agency about the results of the modelling of the Nailbourne and Little Stour which will inform the bids for capital works to reduce the risk of flooding at places such as The Causeway in Barham, Keeper's Hill, School Lane, Littlebourne Green etc. (The whole stretch is being appraised in respect of the identified medium to long term solutions.)

The results should be available before Christmas and will be presented to the Group and other residents soon after that.

The Environment Agency work through the Nailbourne in November carrying out the usual autumn maintenance to clear the river bed of vegetation.

J11 M20 planned lorry park

On 15 November 2017, the Government announced that it is not defending the judicial review of the lorry park that was planned at Stanford West. The Highways England press release is at

<http://www.kentonline.co.uk/hythe/news/reaction-as-lorry-park-plans-135326/>.

The announcement also featured on Kent Online - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-fully-committed-to-operation-stack-solution>, as well as other local and national media.

KALC will continue to work closely with MPs and Kent County Council on pressing Government to find long-term solutions and robust plans to avoid Kent's roads becoming gridlocked due to cross-channel disruption and also to tackle HGV fly parking and HGVs using unsuitable roads.